

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 12700 211517Z
ACTION EB-08

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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
SUBJECT: GATT BUDGET

1. GATT SECRETARIAT HAS CIRCULATED BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1979 (GATT DOCUMENT L/4690). GATT TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR 1979 IS ESTIMATED AT SWF 39,119,000 INCLUDING A CONTRIBUTION OF SWF 7,372,000 (SWF 534,000 MORE THAN IN 1978) PAYABLE TOWARDS THE OPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/GATT. THE BUDGET ESTIMATES THEREFORE FOR THE GATT SECRETARIAT ALONE AMOUNT TO SWF 31,747,000 THUS REMAINING AT THE SAME LEVEL AS APPROVED BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES FOR 1978. THE OVERALL INCREASE OF THE TOTAL BUDGET OF SWF 534,000 REPRESENTING 1.38 PERCENT IS ENTIRELY DUE TO THE INCREASED CONTRIBUTION OF THE GATT TO THE ITC BUDGET.

2. IN MAINTAINING SECRETARIAT EXPENDITURE AT THE SAME LEVEL AS 1978, SECRETARIAT HAS APPLIED NO INFLATION FACTOR ALTHOUGH SALARY INCREASES REPRESENT AN UNAVOIDABLE INCREASE OF SWF 304,000. SECRETARIAT ESTIMATES THAT IT

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 12700 211517Z

CAN MEET THIS INCREASE FROM SAVINGS RESULTING FROM REDUCTION OF WORK CONCERNING THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN 1979. SECRETARIAT ESTIMATES THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO RELEASE 13 PROFESSIONAL AND 8 GENERAL SERVICE CATEGORY POSTS NOW SUPPORTING MTN ACTIVITIES.

3. ALTHOUGH OVERALL LEVEL OF SECRETARIAT EXPENDITURES IS

NOT PROJECTED TO INCREASE THERE ARE SEVERAL CHANGES
WITHIN THE GATT BUDGET. HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE CHANGES ARE:

A. CONSOLIDATION INTO PERMANENT POSITIONS OF 7 PROFESSIONAL POSTS (TWO P5'S, TWO P4'S AND THREE P3'S) NOW INCLUDED IN THE MTN PORTION OF THE BUDGET. SECRETARIAT BELIEVES THAT THESE POSTS WILL BE NEEDED REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE MTN.

B. PROPOSALS FOR THE CONSOLIDATION FROM TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE OF TWO PROFESSIONAL AND 11 GENERAL SERVICE CATEGORY POSTS INTO PERMANENT POSTS (TRANSLATORS, TECHNICIANS, CLERKS, MESSENGERS, GUARDS).

C. PROVISION FOR GATT TO FUND THE GATT COMMERCIAL POLICY TRAINING COURSES NOW FUNDED BY UNDP. AS WE HAVE NOTED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES (GENEVA 5835 AND 8283) GATT FUNDING OF THESE COURSES MAY BE NECESSITATED BY UNDP CHANGES IN FUNDING SUCH COURSES. ALTHOUGH DG LONG IS STILL ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION THAT WILL ALLOW CONTINUED UNDP FUNDING, SECRETARIAT BELIEVES PRUDENT COURSE IS TO PROVIDE FOR FUNDING COURSES IN 1979 GATT BUDGET RATHER THAN ASSUMING THAT SATISFACTORY SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND.

D. REGRADING OF FIVE PROFESSIONAL POSTS AND ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 12700 211517Z

GENERAL SERVICE CATEGORY POST.

E. PROVISION FOR TWO-WEEK CONTRACTING PARTY SESSION RATHER THAN NORMAL ONE-WEEK SESSION ON ASSUMPTION THAT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WILL NECESSITATE A LONGER CP SESSION.

4. A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW. COPIES OF BUDGET ESTIMATES HAVE BEEN POUCHED STR (STEWART) AND EB/ITP/OT/TA (KOPP). VANDEN HEUVEL

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